

FRANCE FAVORS RUSSIA. BRITAIN MAY INTERFERE.

Japan Complains That France is Committing a Breach of Neutrality.

France Declares She is Doing All She Can to Maintain the Neutrality Laws.

Rojestvensky May Wait Until Reinforcements Can Reach His Fleet.

A Tokio cable: It is stated that Japan has made a strong protest to France against the Baltic fleet staying at Kamranh Bay. It is strongly felt here that France is actively assisting the Russians within what is practically the zone of hostilities. The expected advent of the third Russian squadron into the China Sea in about a week strengthens the opinion that the situation is one of exceeding gravity so far as French neutrality is concerned, and that it may force Japan to avail herself of her alliance with Great Britain, which provides in the event of Japan being attacked by any two powers Great Britain is bound to assist her. The elder statesmen and the members of the Cabinet held a conference to-day, which lasted five hours.

Governments will communicate with one another fully and frankly. The agreement is to remain in force five years, or for a longer period, until renounced by one of the contracting parties, but with this special proviso: If, when the date of expiration arrives, either ally is actually engaged in war, the alliance shall continue, ipso facto, until peace is concluded.

MAY WAIT OTHER FLEET.

Japan Does Not Believe Baltic Squadron Will Proceed.

A Tokio cable: Although not reported directly, it is believed that the Russian second Pacific squadron continues the occupation of Kamranh Bay, or some other port of Annam, where it is expected to remain until joined by the third Russian Pacific squadron.

The report that Admiral Rojestvensky is maintaining a patrol and examining neutral shipping off Kamranh Bay increases the irritation towards France for permitting the use of that port as a base of operations.

LESS CONFIDENT.

Britain No Longer Ridicules the Russian Squadron.

A London cable: The British public is beginning to realize how much depends on Togo's skilful conduct of the approaching naval contest. Until Vice-Admiral Nibogloff actually arrived in the Straits of Malacca there was a disposition to ridicule the efforts of the Russian squadron, but now that there is seen to be a growing likelihood of Vice-Admiral Nibogloff joining Rojestvensky before the fateful struggle opens, lukewarm interest is deepening into anxiety.

TRANSPORTS TAKEN OFF.

Japs Adopt Precautions Against Capture of Their Supplies.

A Yinkow cable, via Tien Tsin, April 25.—Few transports are now arriving at New-Chwang. This contrast with the rush of traffic since the opening of the Liao River indicates that precautions are being taken against possible interference by the Russian Pacific squadron.

WHERE WILL THEY FIGHT?

Russia Would Prefer a Battle on the Open Sea.

A St. Petersburg cable: The main question now agitating the naval officials is whether Rojestvensky will elect to proceed northward through the Straits of Formosa or bear off into the Pacific through the Bashi Channel (south of the Island of Formosa), or Balingtang Channel (north of the Island of Luzon). The conviction is growing stronger that the Japanese heavy division is concentrating close to the shores of Japan, and it is also believed that Admiral Togo will decline to give battle in the open sea. This is what the Admiralty officials hope for, as it sincerely believes Rojestvensky would have more than an even chance if the two squadrons lined up in an open fight.

THEY DEPEND ON BRITAIN

To Nullify the Effect of Newfoundland's Act.

New York, April 24.—The Tribune publishes the following from Washington: Advice from St. John's, Nfld., seem to indicate that the colonial Legislature, under the leadership of Premier Bond, has, by the enactment of retaliatory legislation, rendered doubly difficult the task of those members of the Senate who have hoped ultimately to secure the ratification of the Hay-Bond treaty after eliminating such amendments as would render it practically nugatory.

SENT THE WIDOW \$100.

Conscience Money Paid at Chatham After Many Years' Interval.

Chatham, April 24.—When Judge Houston returned to his office after luncheon this afternoon he found a bulky envelope addressed to himself lying upon his desk. On opening the envelope the Judge found it to contain one hundred dollars in bills, with the following penciled message:

"Kindly forward to Mrs. John Wall. I cheated him once."

The contents were doubtless conscience money, and arose from some transaction when the late John Wall conducted a dry goods business in Chatham many years ago. Judge Houston forwarded a draft for the amount to Mrs. Wall this afternoon, enclosing the note of explanation. Mrs. Wall is now living in Cleveland, Ohio.



KALEIEFF, THE ASSASSIN OF GRAND DUKE SERGIUS.

IS DEATH FOR KALEIEFF.

Grand Duke Sergius' Murderer Receives Sentence.

Moscow, April 24.—The trial of Kaleieff, who killed Grand Duke Sergius, by the Supreme Court took place to-day.

The public was not admitted to the trial. The prisoner refused to plead, declaring he was not in the position of a criminal before judges, but was a prisoner taken in a civil war. He was sentenced to death.

HANGED WITHIN A FORTNIGHT.

St. Petersburg, April 19.—The plea at Moscow of Kaleieff, who was sentenced to death for the assassination of Grand Duke Sergius, that a state of civil war exists in Russia and that he was a prisoner of war and not an ordinary prisoner accused of a crime, is considered here to indicate the position which the Terrorists will assume hereafter.

BURNED TO A CINDER.

The Terrible Death of James McBride, a Wealthy Farmer.

Ottawa, April 24.—Burned almost to a cinder, the body of James McBride, farmer, fifty-three years of age, was found among the ruins of his house, about a mile south of Bell's Corners, this morning. The discovery was made by Mr. Patrick Hammill, farmer, who lives near the McBride homestead. He was attracted to the McBride home, from which smoke was pouring in volumes. A ghastly sight met his eyes when he investigated further.

G. T. PACIFIC TERMINAL.

Ten Thousand Acres Purchased on Kaien Island.

Victoria, B. C., April 24.—It is learned on the authority of one close to the present Government that an arrangement has already been made which practically settles the question of the Pacific terminal of the Grand Trunk Pacific. It has been felt for some time that the terminus would be farther south than Port Simpson, and it is said to have been definitely selected at Tuck Inlet, on Kaien Island, about twenty-five miles south of the points usually regarded as the objective of the railway.

SEVEN BURNED TO DEATH.

Terrible Family Catastrophe at Ste. Anne De La Poutriere.

Ste. Anne de la Poutriere, April 24.—A terrible loss occurred here during the night, by which seven children lost their lives, and their mother is in a serious danger. The dead children are Anna Boucher, seven years; Napoleon Boucher, ten years; Edmund Boucher, eight years; George Boucher, seven years; Marguerite Boucher, six years; Joseph Boucher, four years; Etienne Boucher, two months. Mme. Boucher is in a serious condition.

CONGO PIGMIES FOR LONDON.

Warlike Little Men From Ituri Forest Guests of Colonel Harrison.

London, April 24.—Col. Harrison has just arrived at Khartoum, bringing to London six pigmies belonging to the Congo Free State. There are four men and two women, aged between 18 and 34, in height from 44 to 54 inches. Col. Harrison says the pigmies are very numerous on the outskirts of the Ituri forest, but seldom penetrate the interior, except for purposes of concealment.

FORMER HAMILTON WOMAN OUTRAGED AND MURDERED.

Miss Lowry, an Old Lady, Beaten to Death by an Unknown Man.

Broke Into a House at Rodney and Attempted to Assault Another.

When Miss Lowry Struck Him With a Piece of Wood She Was Outraged and Killed.

A Rodney report: Murder, the third within a few weeks in western Ontario, was committed here to-day, the victim being Miss Eliza Lowry, a maiden lady, seventy-two years old, who went about this district doing good. It was while staying at the home of Mrs. Robert Covel, an old woman, whose husband was away with a section gang near Fargo, twenty-five miles from here, that she met a terrible death. Miss Lowry was brutally beaten in the house, dragged outside to a shed, where she was assaulted and left to die. Mrs. Covel, who is practically a cripple from rheumatism, was attacked first, and defended herself until she was practically left helpless on her bed. Miss Lowry came to her assistance, which caused the fiend to turn his attention to Mrs. Covel's companion for the night. There is no clue to the murderer, who seems to have left very little trace behind. Great excitement has been occasioned in the village by the news of the crime, and strangers are looked upon more or less with suspicion. There have been no arrests, and it is not likely that there will be any, pending the arrival of a Provincial detective to-morrow.

Motive for the Crime.

The motive for the crime, it would seem, was assault, although the murderer on his entrance to the place demanded money. In enforcing his demand the man let drop a remark that leads the authorities to believe that the murderer was someone who knew the Covel family affairs. Robert Covel, the husband of Mrs. Covel, is a section hand on the Michigan Central, and usually goes away on Sunday evenings and returns on Saturdays. Their home, a small cottage, is about three-quarters of a mile north of Rodney village, and is surrounded by farm houses. There is about an acre of land around the place. Miss Lowry, who is a worker in the Presbyterian Church, at times left her brother's home to keep Mrs. Covel company. Last night the two women were alone in the house and occupied separate rooms.

Mrs. Covel's Story.

The terrible events of the night are probably best told by Mrs. Covel, who is an elderly woman, although in a weak condition from fright and illness, went into the witness stand at the coroner's inquest. Mrs. Covel says they retired about 8:30 o'clock, and a little afterwards she heard Miss Lowry putting raised her head as the intruder exclaimed, "Money or your life."

"I want to come in," said a voice. "On my word," cried Mrs. Covel. "I will," sternly replied the voice outside, and at the same time the visitor put his shoulder to the door, forcing it in. All was darkness, and in the very dim light Mrs. Covel saw a heavy stick with which the man struck her on the forehead. "Money or your life," he exclaimed. "The man knew to whom he was talking, Mrs. Covel cried out: "Spare our lives; you can have all the money we have," at the same time handing the man a purse containing about \$125.

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morning that the murder was discovered. Mrs. Covel attracted the attention of two boys, who came in, and learning the startling story, searched the yard, finding Miss Lowry's body in the shed. The remains lay in a pool of blood. Terrible injuries had been sustained to the head, and it was apparent that the woman had been brutally assaulted.

News of the murder quickly spread, and this afternoon's train brought Crown Attorney McCrimmon, County Magistrate Hunt and County Constable Hopkins from St. Thomas.

Coroner Dorland, of Rodney, opened the inquest this afternoon, and after the jury had viewed the remains the evidence of Mrs. Covel and Dr. Patterson was taken.

The Only Clue.

The placing on the witness stand of John Wills, a farmer who lives about three miles northeast of the scene of the murder, was a surprise to the crowded court room. It was thought that the witness knew something that might prove startling. Wills was in Rodney last night, and left for home about 11 o'clock. While taking a short cut, when about three-quarters of a mile from the scene of the murder, he claims to have heard repeated sounds which he believed to be the barking of a dog. Neighbors only thirty rods away heard nothing.

The inquest will be resumed at 2:30 to-morrow, when the report of the autopsy to be performed in the morning will be submitted. The weapon the murderer used was cut from a cherry tree on the old Lamont Hotel property, probably with a blunt jack-knife. It is about three feet long and one and a half inches thick. It is almost certain that the man wore heavy boots, as there are nail marks on the walls of the shed close to the place where the body lay. The Crown officers to-night seems to be at sea. Any traces the murderer left about the house are now obliterated. The arrival of a Provincial detective to-morrow may be followed by developments.

Murderer Not a Tramp.

The tramp theory advanced at first has been exploded by Mrs. Covel, who makes the important assertion that the murderer knew her family and her neighbors in the district say that possibly the murderer was somebody who was acquainted with her husband and was aware of his habits. The man's whole manner in the house indicated that he was one of that class who would do anything for money to buy whiskey. His breath smelled strongly of whiskey. The people here think that while the man demanded money, robbery was not what prompted him to go to the house. Last night Mrs. Covel said if the murderer could be found blood would be found on his clothing. Traces of her terrible struggle with the murderer Mrs. Covel carries in a dislocated knee and several bruises on the hand. Her husband reached home to-night, and is prostrated by the terrible death met by Miss Lowry.

The Victim.

The murdered woman was the sister of the late David Lowry, a former elder of Knox Presbyterian Church at St. Thomas. She was a native of Ireland, and had been a resident of Rodney for 40 years. Prior to coming here she lived in Hamilton and Toronto. One sister, Mrs. Ashly, died in the Queen City some time ago. Her father was the late John Lowry, colporteur for many years in connection with the Presbyterian Church, travelling through the new districts of Ontario. She was highly respected in Rodney. Mrs. Covel was formerly Mrs. Anderson Baker, of Rodney, and was known to be in comfortable circumstances, having been left fairly well off by her first husband. Her husband, Robert Covel, is an industrious man, and is engaged regularly on bridge construction for the Michigan Central Railway. Their cottage is in the section known as Old Rodney.

JAILER TOO MUCH FOR THEM.

Foiled Desperate Attempt at Jailbreaking in Spain.

Madrid, April 24.—Five notorious criminals, who are confined in the prison at Coruna, made a desperate attempt to escape to-day. They cut the bars from one of the windows and used the broken pieces to break their shackles with. When the jailer went to call them they seized, gagged and bound him. While one of the prisoners watched him the others went to force an outer door.

The jailer, who is a man of herculean strength, broke his bonds and killed the man who had been set to watch him. He called for help and other keepers ran to his assistance. A desperate fight occurred between the keepers and the prisoners who were seeking their liberty. Ultimately the latter were overpowered and re-shackled.

A MATRIMONIAL SCHEME.

Assiniboia Man After Fifty English Girls for the West.

Montreal, April 24.—Benjamin Pipe, of Wapella, Assiniboia, is on the way to England with a strong argument to induce fifty maiden, experienced, good-looking girls to accompany him back to the prairies. The girls will begin as servants at about fifteen dollars a month, but it will be understood that the family will tie in them if they do not soon thereafter become mistresses of fifty households. Wives, not servants, are what, in Mr. Pipe's opinion, the west needs; wives to make homes and bind the young men to the soil. It will be made clear to the girls that the west offers every opportunity for the matrimonially inclined.

Miss Lowry's Body.

It was not till nearly 9 o'clock this

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